



Reading United Soccer Club (RUSC) Fall '08 Coaching Guide

Or... "They told me I had to
Coach... Now what!"

Welcome to RUSC

- What is RUSC?
- Resources for Coaches
- Who Does What...?
- SportsManager - more than a web site...
- Fall Season Description
- Detailed Review of Coaching Tasks and Responsibilities

What is RUSC?

- Reading community Youth Soccer Club
- Founded - 1979 as the Quannapowitt United Soccer Club
- Became Reading United Soccer Club in 1984
- Member club in the Middlesex Youth Soccer League (MYSL)
- Affiliated with Mass Youth Soccer (MYS) – 2nd largest Youth Soccer organization in the USA
- MYS Affiliations:
 - United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA)
 - United States Soccer Federation (USSF)
 - Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

Resources for Coaches

- Local Experience
 - RUSC BOD members
 - Other RUSC Coaches
- Area Professionals
 - Mass Youth Soccer (MYS) staff
- Coaching education courses developed by USSF and international youth soccer federations
 - Provided by MYS professional staff
 - Paid for by RUSC
- www.rusc.org
 - BOD contacts
 - SportsManager links
 - Links to MYS and Middlesex Youth Soccer League (MYSL)
 - Coaching resources – including practice plans
 - RUSC program information
 - Player/parent resources
 - Field maps
 - ...and more

Send suggestions for new content to:

webmaster@rusc.org

Who Does What...?

- Coach – The face of RUSC
 - Teaches youth players to play the Beautiful Game
 - Primary RUSC contact for parents and players
- Age Group Coordinator (AGC)
 - Manages tryouts and roster placements
 - Key contact for coaches on equipment, fields, League issues, Q&A...
- Gender Commissioner
 - BOD member responsible for coordinating activities of AGCs
 - Key contact for parents with all issues not resolved by coaches and AGCs
- MYSL Travel Coordinator
 - Represents RUSC interests at MYSL – primary League contact
 - Communicates MYSL policy and procedures to the RUSC BOD
 - Submits rosters and changes to League officials
- RUSC Executives – President, Treasurer & Secretary
 - RUSC administrative functions
 - Last in line for un-resolved issues in RUSC
 - Work with BOD members/coaches to make sure everything gets done...
- SportsManager Administrator – holds keys to the system

Who's Who – (see also: www.rusc.org)

Position	Name	Contact
President	Mike Sheedy	president@rusc.org
Treasurer	Moirra McGoldrick	treasurer@rusc.org
Secretary	Doug Stevens	secretary@rusc.org
Travel Commissioner	Rick Shaffer	travelgirlscommish@rusc.org
Boys U10 AGC	George Katsoufis	travelbu10-agc@rusc.org
Boys U12 AGC	Dave Conroy	travelbu12-agc@rusc.org
Boys U14 AGC	Dave Rose	travelbu14-agc@rusc.org
Girls U10 AGC	Katrina Maher	travelgu10-agc@rusc.org
Girls U12 AGC	Peter Coumounduros	travelgu12-agc@rusc.org
Girls U14 AGC	Will Blaise	travelgu14-agc@rusc.org
Referee Assignor	Jack Zorabedian	referees@rusc.org
MYLS Travel Coordinator	Paul Millett	mysltravelcoordinator@rusc.org
Uniform Coordinator	Jennifer Catalan	traveluniforms@rusc.org
SportsManager Administrator	Dave Blanchard	registrar@rusc.org

SportsManager

- www.sportsmanager.us/readingyouthsoccer.htm or links to specific components on www.rusc.org
- Powerful online organizational tool to manage:
 - Schedules
 - Rosters
 - Online registration
 - Database
 - Communications
- League interface
- Several layers of accessibility for RUSC members

SportsManager Access

- Public access – no username or PW
 - Schedules and scores
 - Standings
 - Registration
- Coach – user email address and PW
 - Roster Management – player information and email communications tools for team
- AGC – user email address and PW
 - Roster Management – player information and email communications tools for teams in gender/age group
 - Add/delete players from rosters
 - Add coach/team manager to rosters

SportsManager Access

- Administrator – ‘juiced’ PW access
 - Set-up seasons - available teams, age groups, assign fields
 - Set-up registration for seasons and activities
 - Powerful email tools for messages to RUSC members
 - Add/delete players/adults from system
 - Modify game schedules
 - Post notices/calendar items
 - Create and distribute reports
 - Formal rosters
 - ID cards
 - Player/team status
 - Registration data
 - ..and much more

What is the Fall Season?

- Season lasts 9 weeks
- U10, U12, U14 Games are played on Saturdays
- 1st Games are Saturday 9/12
 - Field assignments are noted on the Schedule
 - Game-day cancellations due to weather may need to be made up as per League

The Season is about to begin... ...what do I need?

- Players

- You should have contacted all of your players by now
- If any players have dropped out, contact your AGC (there may be a wait list)
- You should have received an official stamped roster at the MYSL Coaches Meeting (9/2, Joyce School)
- *If you don't have a stamped roster* contact your AGC
- Be sure to speak with the parents about what to expect and what is expected of them
 - See slide 17 and:
www.mayouthsoccer.org/pages/961_parent_education_guidelines.cfm

The Season is about to begin... ...what do I need?

- **Equipment**

- To start off you should have:
 - Balls: Size 4 for U10 and U12, Size 5 for U14.
 - Practice pinnys
 - Cones
 - First Aid Kit
 - Keeper Shirt – or a suitably colored pinny
 - Keeper Gloves
- If you need something contact your AGC

The Season is about to begin... ...what do I need?

- Schedule

- The schedule will be managed on Sports Manager
<http://www.sportsmanager.us/READINGYouthSoccer.htm>
- All games will be posted on the site with time and field – navigate to your team with pull-down menus (e.g., BU10 is a LEAGUE)
- The link is also provided on the 'Links' page on www.rusc.org
- Click on the '?' to the left of each game to see coach contact info
- Confirm all information with the opposing coach.
- Check the system the week of the game to be sure no changes were made to the schedule
- IT IS YOUR JOB TO KNOW WHEN AND WHERE EACH GAME IS. DON'T ASSUME. CONFIRM!
- SportsManager will distribute email messages requesting score reporting and referee evaluations following each game (one per team please)
- Be sure your contact information is correct in SportsManager! – check by logging into the system with your email address
- Problems with SportsManager?
 - contact the Administrator: Dave Blanchard (registrar@rusc.org)

The Season is about to begin...

...what do I need?

- Practice

- Most teams practice twice a week for 1 to 1 1/2 hours per session
- If you haven't already, you should request your practice time through Mike Sheedy (msheedy@comcast.net) *and copy your AGC*
- Practice Schedule will be emailed and posted on www.rusc.org
- Field space is tight. You will be sharing with many other teams. Be considerate and take only a fair share of the space. Don't try to play a half field scrimmages when there are four other teams working out
- Only use the field and time you are assigned. We are only permitted by the town for certain spaces at certain times. Just because a field is open does not mean we can use it!

Time for the First Game. What Next?

- Know the Rules
 - League specific rules can be found at www.middlesexsoccer.org
 - Laws of the Game can be found at www.fifa.com
- Links are also on the www.rusc.org coaches page

Time for the First Game. What Next?

- Have Everything Ready

- Give 2 copies of your stamped Roster to the referee
- Make sure the players' phone numbers are 'whited' out – kids' name, dob *and* phone number is more information than coaches or referees need
- The referee will give you one copy of the other team's roster
- Make sure the referee's name appears on the roster
- If you are the home team, give a good, well inflated ball to the referee as the game ball
- Have a backup ball ready for when the ball flies over a fence or gets lost in the woods

Time for the First Game. What Next?

- You Are In Charge of Your Team
 - The coach and the 2 assistants listed on the roster should be on the bench. The 5 others that helped out at practice should be on the other side with the spectators
 - You are responsible for the behavior of your team. This includes your assistants, your players and their parents...
 - The referee will hold you responsible for controlling parents who get out of hand
 - During the game – THE REFEREE IS ALWAYS RIGHT

Time for the First Game. What Next?

- Take Care of the Field!
 - Make sure the field (home or away) is clean. That means picking up everything (water bottles, orange peels, trash, sweatshirts, etc.).
 - The Town won't give permits to organizations that don't take care of the field!
 - Keep players and parents back from the sidelines. Don't let a player get hurt running into a lawn chair parked too close to the line
 - If the Referee says something is wrong with the home field, do everything you can to fix it (move sandbags to anchor goals, place cones on corners, etc.)

Time for the First Game - Longwood

- Special Note for Games at Longwood
 - Players, coaches and spectators should stay in the immediate field area
 - Parents and fans should observe games from the street side of the field, by the fence, with teams on the touchline nearest the building
 - The building and courtyard area are not part of the Town field area. You are responsible for making sure that no one goes onto Longwood's and any neighbor's private property
 - Parking for soccer is only allowed in the spaces directly across from the field and on the street. Make sure your parents and opposing coaches follow these rules
 - Game times at Longwood are spaced out to prevent too many of cars from being there all at once. Have your players arrive no more than 25 minutes before game time

The Ref made a bad call! What Now?

- DO NOTHING – during the game, the referee is always right!
 - As we all know from watching the video review on the NFL, referees sometimes make mistakes. YOUTH SOCCER HAS NO VIDEO REVIEW PROCESS FOR REVERSING CALLS ...and no breaks for tv commercials...
 - Referees are there because they enjoy the game too. They want to help and they are doing the best they can
 - Many referees, especially in U10, are *young* new refs. They have taken a class and are certified, but will be discouraged if angry adults go after them while they are trying their best.
 - Assume your son or daughter is out there and see if you would want some obnoxious adult yelling at the them

The Ref made a bad call! Part Deux

- DO NOTHING – *during the game, the referee is always right!*
 - The League and the Club have a **Zero Tolerance Policy for Referee Abuse** – RUSC supports **Red Cards** for abusive coaches, players and parents.
 - After the game, you can report incidents to Jack Zorabedian, Referee Assignor
 - SportsManager will distribute a referee evaluation form for coaches to send constructive evaluations – good and bad – to the referee assignors: you should respond every week
 - Every year the League loses young referees – including some Reading kids – to abusive adults. Please be a positive role model

Game off – Now What?

- Reschedule It – start the ball rolling right away...
 - Games may be rescheduled due to field closings or if a majority of your players have a conflicting school/religious activity
 - If you are playing at home, contact Mike Sheedy (and copy your AGC) to request at least 3 possible dates/times where a field is available
 - Contact the *Opposing Coach* with the 3 possible make-up dates/times
 - If the dates don't work, the opposing coach will (should) suggest some alternatives

Game off – Now What? Cont'd

- Then, MAKE IT OFFICIAL
 - When the date/time is agreeable to both teams, ***send a message to your MYSL Age Director to approve the new schedule (each club assigns their own referees during the fall season)***
 - When approved by MYSL, send a message to Mike Sheedy (copy your AGC and the SportsManager Administrator) to confirm and to get the SportsManager schedule updated – be sure to include the original date, the opponent and the game number (shown on the SportsManager schedule) to ensure accuracy
 - For the rescheduling to be complete it must be changed on Sports Manager. Be sure to follow-up with your AGC and Mike Sheedy if SportsManager does not show the change
 - After all is confirmed, your AGC will contact Jack Zorabedian (RUSC's Referee Assignor) with full details of the make-up game and a referee will be assigned.
 - The earlier you do this the better the chance you will get the date you want and have a referee available

The weather stinks (raining, tornado, sleeting, locusts, etc.). Game On?

- For Home Games check the Website and your email inbox. As soon as the fields are closed it will be posted on www.rusc.org
 - Remember soccer is an all weather sport so don't assume that just because it is raining that the game is cancelled - this isn't baseball
 - If the fields are officially open, only the referee can decide that it is unsafe to play. The coaches do not make that decision
- For Away Games contact the opposing coach.
 - Exchanging cell phone numbers can help if things change while you are in transit
- Stay in touch with your players
 - You should always make sure your players know if there is a change in schedule as soon as possible

The Game is Over. What next?

- Be a Good Sport.
 - Win, Lose or Draw shake hands with the coach and referee
 - Make sure your players shake hands and are respectful
 - Taunts and complaints should not be tolerated
 - Smiles Everybody!
- Report your scores
 - Reporting will be done on Sports Manager – it's easiest to respond to the email message you receive from SportsManager within 24 hours of the game
 - Scores not recorded are considered a forfeit

What do I do at Practice?

- Keep it Fun
 - **Everybody gets a ball!**
 - Keep the players moving with lots of touches on the ball during skills games
 - **Kids *don't want to hear you talk*** – let them play and keep instructions brief
 - Kids hate standing in lines, waiting...so don't make them do it
 - Use small sided games to teach valuable support concepts while giving players lots of touches on the ball
 - Mix it up. There are a wide array of skills for young soccer players to learn and lots of entertaining ways to teach them - avoid doing the same thing over and over again
- Reach Out for Help
 - Ask other Coaches how to keep the kids engaged, learning and having fun
 - Ask Board members for suggestions on games, coaching courses/clinics, and other resources
 - Take advantage of online resources – many helpful links are posted on the Coaches Page on www.rusc.org

Things That Cost Money

- Tournaments – please do try to go to tournaments with your team - lots of options:

www.mayouthsoccer.org/pages/65_competitive_tournaments.cfm

- RUSC will pay the registration fee
 - Please contact the RUSC Treasurer and President (and copy your AGC) *before* commitment
- Any other activity/purchase you consider that may be payable by RUSC
 - Please contact the RUSC Treasurer and President for approval and/or instructions *before* commitment

Have a Great Season!

- Be enthusiastic and positive
- Smile a lot
- Have fun watching the kids have a great time!